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DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
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A REPORTER WHOSE BYLINE READS BEN URICH.
HURTS, huh? WAIT.
WHEN IT REALLY HITS, THIS IS GONNA SEEM LIKE A KISS...
SHE'S THE LAST OF THEM...
AN ASSISTANT D.A. KNOWN AS KATHY MALPER.
...AND JUST AS LOST!
PUT 'EM IN THE TRUCK!
NOT EVERYONE SURVIVES THE ORDEAL.
BUT THE KINGPIN ENDURES...
...AND THAT'S REALLY ALL THAT'S IMPORTANT.
GOT THEIR ADDRESSES?
YEP. DUMP 'EM HOME LIKE NOTHIN' HAPPENED!
I DON'T MEAN TO BE CRASS, MR. FISK, BUT THE SIZE OF THIS JOB MAKES IT QUITE EXPENSIVE...
YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY, KAI-SHEK!
BALANCING THE SHEETS WITH A TRAITOR LIKE KRUEL IS WORTH ANY COST...

THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS MISERY IS SIMPLY MURDER.
A CRIMINAL JUDAS NAMED VIC KRUELLER.
"KRUEL" TO FRIENDS—IF HE HAD ANY—AND ENEMIES ALIKE.
VIC STOLE FROM WILSON FISK.
FOR THAT TRANSGRESSION, HE WAS BLUDGEONED AND BURNED AND LEFT FOR DEAD.
AS IT TURNED OUT, KRUEL DIDN'T LOSE HIS LIFE THAT LONG-AGO NIGHT.
HIS MIND WAS ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY.
COGNIZANT THOUGHT GAVE WAY TO STARK FURY.
AND ANYTHING HUMAN WAS REPLACED BY A PRIMAL NEED FOR REVENGE.

vowels & consonants
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inker - TOM PALMER
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editor - MARIE JAVINS
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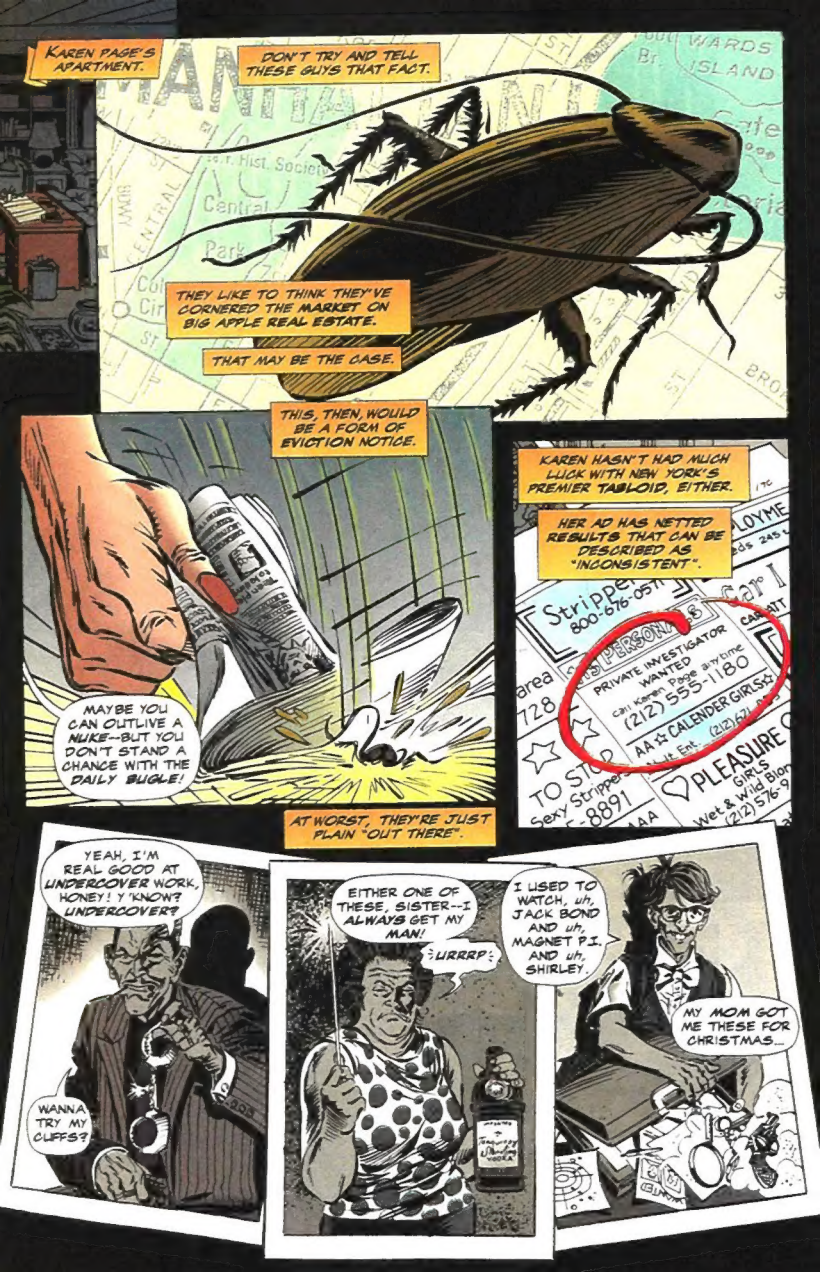
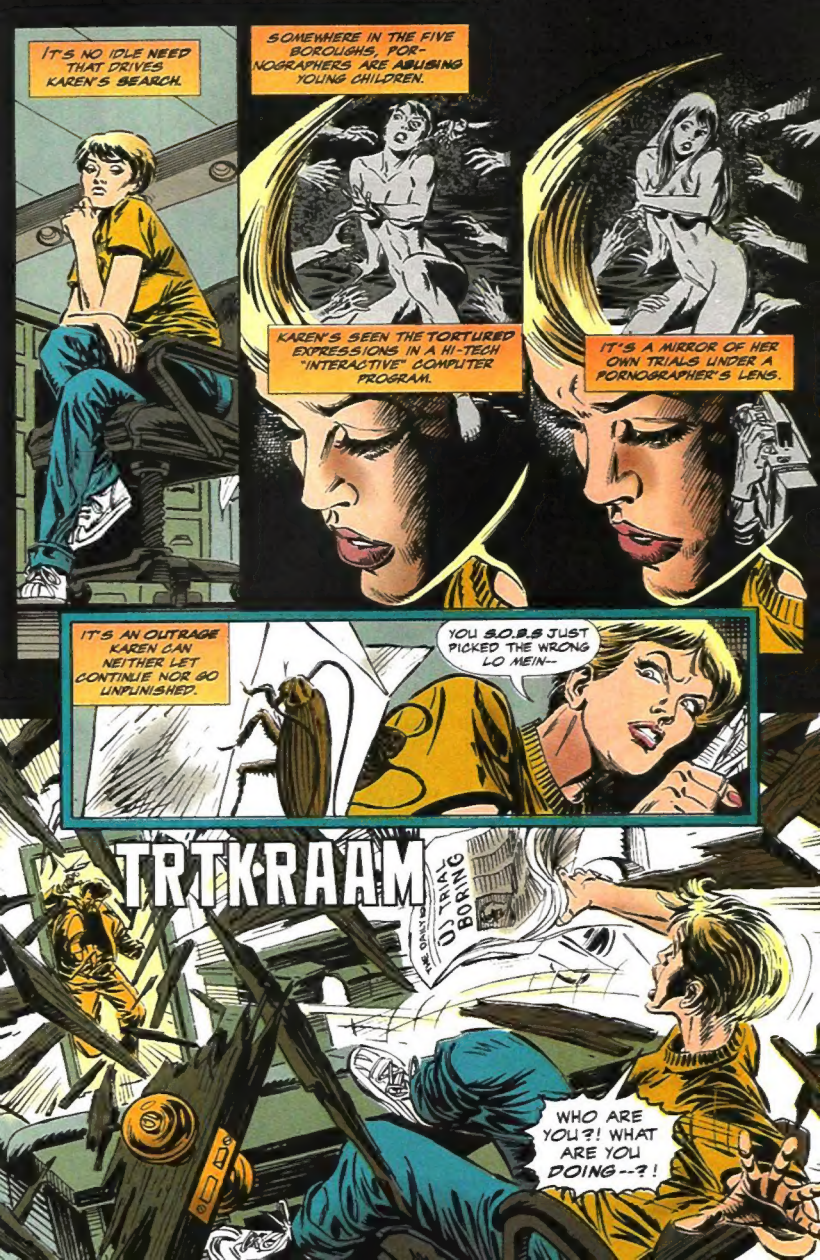
BOBBIE CHASE

RELENTLESS JUSTICE.
YOU'VE LEFT QUITE A WAKE OF BODIES, FISK!
MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU JOINED THEM...

SH...THE "NEW" DAREDEVIL FINALLY COMES CALLING!
THERE MIGHT BE AMUSEMENT IN TAKING CREDIT FOR WHAT'S GOT YOU SO RILED--IF I HAD A CLUE WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT!
THE ATTACKS ON KATHY MALPER AND BEN URICH AND HIS WIFE--THE MURDER OF GLORIANNA O'BREEN!
ALL FRIENDS OF THE "OLD" DAREDEVIL--ALL TARGETS FOR SOME TWISTED GAME OF PAYBACK YOU'RE PLAYING!
YES, I READ ABOUT THEM. TRAGIC. THE CITY IS A DANGEROUS PLACE.
BUT THEIR PAIN WASN'T MY DOING, "HERO". WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW THE GUILTY PARTY?
YOU'RE FAR FROM INNOCENT, FAT MAN. BUT I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO SAY!
...I LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THE SAME SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WITH YOU!
ANOTHER TIME, PERHAPS.
EXCELLENT! YOUR PREDECESSOR AND I ENJOYED A LONG AND PROSPEROUS RELATIONSHIP...
THE MAN YOU WANT IS VIC KRUELLER...

..."KRUEL" AS HE LIKED TO BE CALLED! I ONCE GAVE HIM SOME EXCELLENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.
BUT HE ABUSED MY TRUST BY USING MY INNOCENT SPICE IMPORT BUSINESS AS A WAY TO BRING IN DESIGNER DRUGS! SHOCKING!
THERE WERE... REPERCUSSIONS. KRUEL DIDN'T DEAL WELL, AS IT WERE.
HIS CURRENT VICTIMS MAY HAVE ENCOUNTERED HIM DURING THAT UNHAPPY TIME. THAT CONNECTION--
--ACCENTED BY VIOLENCE--IS HELPING KRUEL TO REMEMBER HIS PAST! HIS ULTIMATE DESIRE IS TO GET BACK AT ME--
--WHO HE UNFAIRLY BLAMES FOR HIS OWN TROUBLES! NATURALLY, I'M DISTRAUGHT OVER WHAT'S HAPPENED...
...I'M AS EAGER AS YOU TO SEE THIS MADNESS STOP!
DON'T THINK FOR ONE MINUTE I BUY ALTRUISM AS YOUR MOTIVE, FISK!
IF YOU'VE GOT HISTORY WITH KRUEL, HIS MAD DOG ROUTINE CAN'T BE MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!
I WON'T WASTE TIME DEFENDING MY MOTIVES, DAREDEVIL--NOT WHEN OUR TIME IS BETTER SERVED TRACKING OUR MUTUAL GOAL!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRIVE?
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, WILLIE.


KAREN PAGE'S APARTMENT.
DON'T TRY AND TELL THESE GUYS THAT FACT.
THEY LIKE TO THINK THEY'VE CORNERED THE MARKET ON BIG APPLE REAL ESTATE.
THAT MAY BE THE CASE.
THIS, THEN, WOULD BE A FORM OF EVICTION NOTICE.
MAYBE YOU CAN OUTLIVE A NUKE--BUT YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE WITH THE DAILY BUGLE!
KAREN HASN'T HAD MUCH LUCK WITH NEW YORK'S PREMIER TABLOID, EITHER.
HER AD HAS NETTED RESULTS THAT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS "INCONSISTENT".
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR WANTED
Call Karen Page anytime
(212) 555-1180
AA ☆ CALENDER GIRLS ☆
PLEASURE GIRLS
AT WORST, THEY'RE JUST PLAIN "OUT THERE".
YEAH, I'M REAL GOOD AT UNDERCOVER WORK, HONEY! Y'KNOW? UNDERCOVER?
WANNA TRY MY CUFFS?
EITHER ONE OF THESE, SISTER--I ALWAYS GET MY MAN!
:URRRP:
I USED TO WATCH, uh, JACK BOND AND uh, MAGNET P.I. AND uh, SHIRLEY.
MY MOM GOT ME THESE FOR CHRISTMAS...


IT'S NO IDLE NEED THAT DRIVES KAREN'S SEARCH.
SOMEWHERE IN THE FIVE BOROUGHS, PORNOGRAPHERS ARE ABUSING YOUNG CHILDREN.
KAREN'S SEEN THE TORTURED EXPRESSIONS IN A HI-TECH "INTERACTIVE" COMPUTER PROGRAM.
IT'S A MIRROR OF HER OWN TRIALS UNDER A PORNOGRAPHER'S LENS.
IT'S AN OUTRAGE KAREN CAN NEITHER LET CONTINUE NOR GO UNPUNISHED.
YOU S.O.B.S JUST PICKED THE WRONG LO MEIN--
TRTK-RAAM
THE DAILY 10
TRIAL BORING
WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING--?!

OH...I GOT YOU NOW!
LASER-OPTIC SIGHTING--
KRAM
KRAM
KRAM
--OH! SORRY 'BOUT YOUR DINNER.
JOHN GARRETT, BABE.
SAW YOUR AD! I'M HERE ABOUT THE JOB...
YOU'RE HIRED.

MARCUS GARVEY MEMORIAL PARK
FOGGY NELSON KNOWS THIS ISN'T THE CITY'S SAFEST NEIGHBORHOOD--
--BUT THE VIEW FROM THE FIRE WATCHTOWER PROVIDES A VIEW THAT'S ALWAYS HELPED THE LAWYER CLEAR HIS HEAD.
RIGHT NOW, ANY SENSE OF CLARITY IS WELCOME.
PAYING THE BILLS THESE DAYS MEANS DEFENDING A SHOCK JOURNALISM TV SHOW
WEET
FRANKLIN NELSON
TEN THOUSAND
28532
FINDING LEGAL LOOPHOLES TO ESCAPE THE CLAIMS OF THE PROGRAM'S SLANDERED VICTIMS
IT DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH THE ATTORNEY'S IDEALS.
HE'S NEVER COMPROMISED VALUES EASILY
Y-YOU CAN'T DENY YOUR WORK'S BEEN PLAGIARIZED, PROFESSOR--I SAW THE ORIGINAL PAPER
DON'T GET ON A HIGH HORSE WITH ME, NELSON! I'LL END YOUR CAREER BEFORE IT EVEN BEGINS!
NEXT EXIT
DESPAIR SENT THE LAW STUDENT RUNNING INTO THE NIGHT

FOGGY CRUMPLED THE THREAT HIS PROFESSOR WROTE OUT, INK MIXING WITH SWEAT AND BURNING LIKE ACID.
HUNGER WOULD FINALLY OVER-COME GRIEF.
GHOST of a CHANCE RESTAURANT
AND THE NEXT THING FOGGY WOULD REMEMBER IS THROWING THE HARASSMENT BACK IN THE PROFESSOR'S FACE.
YOU'RE A FRAUD-- AND YOU'LL FACE THAT BEFORE THE BAR!
NELSON! GET BACK HERE, YOUNG MAN! YOU'RE GOING DOWN, YOU HEAR ME? I'LL PERSONALLY--
PROFESSOR GOLDE LOST HIS LICENSE TO PRACTICE LAW. FRANKLIN NELSON EARNED HIS--
I WISH YOU WERE HERE, MATT
--AND HUNG A SHINGLE WITH HIS FRIEND AND PARTNER, MATTHEW MURDOCK
THEN MATT DIED-- OR SO HIS PARTNER HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE
MATT IS ALSO DAREDEVIL AND WAS FORCED TO FAKE HIS DEATH TO PROTECT HIS FRIENDS
THIS ONE HAS BEEN FORCED INTO KILLING OFF PART OF HIMSELF, TOO
YOU COULD TELL ME WHAT TO DO
I GOT A SUGGESTION FOR YOU, NELSON--

--YOU CAN SCREAM!
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW H.M HOW?
MR. NELSON, I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE--
NO! HE HAS TO HELP ME REMEMBER!
BENEATH THE HORNS, MATT MURDOCK IS LEGALLY BLIND BUT HIS OTHER SENSES ARE SO ALIVE AS TO BE SUPERHUMAN
DAREDEVIL EASILY AVOIDS KRUEL'S ATTACK

HIS OLD LAW SCHOOL ROOMMATE IS NOT SO LUCKY.
FOGGY!
I'VE GOT YOU--
--BUT DON'T STRUGGLE! I HAVE TO GET SOME LEVERAGE--
NO TIME, HORNHEAD!

LEAVE HIM ALONE, KRUEL!
IT'S ME YOU WANT, ISN'T IT?
THE--THE FAT MAN
F-FISK! WILSON FISK!
I REMEMBER NOW! ALL OF IT!
AND I'M GOING TO FEED IT BACK TO YOU IN YOUR OWN BLOOD!

SORRY, VICTOR
NOT HUNGRY
SOME SHOW OF BRUTALITY!
THAT WAS IT? ALL THOSE YEARS OF HATRED?
I EXPECTED SOMETHING TRULY RAW.
I TAUGHT YOU TO BE RUTHLESS, KRUEL!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU NEED A NEW LESSON--

HYPERKEEN SENSES LOCK ONTO KRUEL'S AGONY.
SORRY-- GENTLE WOULD TAKE TOO LONG!
BETTER LUCK IN YOUR NEXT LIFE, VICTOR!
ENOUGH, KINGPIN! DON'T TOUCH HIM AGAIN!
YOU'RE KILLING HIM!

T'S WHAT HE DESERVES
THEN GO AHEAD
AND I'LL GUARANTEE YOU'LL GET THE SAME

YOU CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF COMPASSION YOUR PREDECESSOR MADE FAMOUS HOW TOUCHING
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE NO SENSE BOILING ONE'S HANDS ON GARBAGE...
THE MADNESS INSIDE VIES FOR CONTROL OF KRUEL, THREATENING A RETURN TO OBLIVION.
HE STRUGGLES FOR FOCUS--
--AN AVENUE TO RECAPTURE HIS LONG LOST SENSE OF SELF.
--A FAMILIAR FACE--
YOU--YOU WERE THERE! HELP ME! HELP ME REMEMBER WHO I WAS!
DAREDEVIL'S INTERNAL "RADAR" SKETCHES CRUDE FORM IN HIS HEAD.
HE PLOTS THE ANGLES--

--AND MAKES THE HARD CALL.
GET DOWN!
SHREEK!
I JUST WANT--WHO I AM!
THERE'S STILL A CHARGE ON YOUR HEAD IN THE MURDER OF JIMMY SABIN!!
NOT SO FAST, FISK! THIS ISN'T OVER.
YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO IT...
...BUT REST IN PEACE...

HOW RIGHT YOU ARE. TAKE ME IN THEN, VIGILANTE.
I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AT WORK!
THANK YOU...FOR EVERYTHING!
THERE WAS NO TIME FOR INTRODUCTIONS EARLIER, MR. NELSON.
I'M DAREDEVIL.
YES, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE...

THE BLIND MAN'S FINGERS SCAN THE NEWSPRINT, "READING" THE RAISED RIDGES OF INK.
HE READS THE TRUTH BETWEEN THE LINES AND THE LIES..
BUGLE
KINGPIN WALKS
NO EVIDENCE NO CRIME
CONTENTS
WILSON FISK SOMEHOW DISCOVERED THE WHOS AND WHERES OF THE WITNESSES AGAINST HIM.
THEY WILL NEVER BE SEEN AGAIN...
...EXCEPT PERHAPS BY FISH FEASTING DEEP IN THE HUDSON RIVER.
JUSTICE HAS NEVER COME EASY IN THIS CITY.
BUT FOR ALL ITS HARDSHIP, JUSTICE WILL NEVER HAVE A GREATER ADVOCATE THAN MATTHEW MICHAEL MURDOCK.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

MARIE JAVINS
EDITOR

POLLY MATSON
PENGUIN B

BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear Marie and Polly,

After reading DD #339, I felt I *had* to write and tell you what I think of DAREDEVIL's new story line: I like it! I like it a lot! Not only does it feature great art by Alexander Jubran, the story by Alan Smithee is even better! Just when I was thinking about not buying DD any more (for some reason, I was pretty disappointed with "Humanity's Fathom"), you come up with an exciting story about the Kingpin's past which includes Matt, Karen, Foggy, Ben Urich and a mad killer trying to destroy all of them. Great stuff! I especially liked the scene between Matt and Ben on the rooftop. It was very tempting for Matt to tell Ben that he is still alive, but he decides to keep it a secret. Very touching scene. Moments like that make the characters seem almost alive, and make me care about them more than 22-page fight issues (although they can be entertaining too, from time to time)!

I'm looking forward to the next issue. If you could manage to include Elektra, I'd be very thankful! I know she has her own mini-series (which is great, and should be ongoing), but I just can't get enough of her!

Thomas Muhrenberg
Halberstadter Str. 9
37520 Osterode
GERMANY

That Alan Smithee! He's a smokin' gun, all right! But don't look for Elektra to appear in DD's pages any time soon—she's too busy tearing up Ralph Macchio's office!

Dear DAREDEVIL editors,

I think Daredevil is a big pansy. Any guy with just one-tenth the brains and brawn God gave this eyeless abomination could fight off the hardly-terrifying Kruel with a wilted tulip! I mean, what are his superpowers? He doesn't have any! And what's with that black suit? Is that supposed to be tough? He couldn't scare the squirrels away from my bird feeder! I've seen paraplegic dachshunds that move faster than he can! Look at the way he stumbles around! You can practically hear a voice saying, "Use the Force, Luke" in the background! It's pitiful! God, at least give him a gun or something! Bring back the Plasticman!

Please renew my subscription.

Lloyd Said
Address withheld by request
Minneapolis, MN

For you, Lloyd, anything!

Dear Marie and Bobbie,

You could say that DD #339 was Alan Smithee's "dish ish", what with all the references to foodstuffs that permeated the story. I was expecting the Kingpin to roast some marshmallows over the flames near the story's end.

As for the story's beginning: very choppy. I have no doubt that the script made abundant sense to Alan, but of course, that's not the point. To keep your readership of thousands in a state of enjoyment, you might want to slow down just a little, and inject some simplicity. Simplicity is the key. As it is, I had a tough time telling what was going on with whom in the first couple of pages.

The slice of the Big Apple that we had next is always a nice feature of Marvel's line. We certainly established who our bad guy is. The flashbacks to the auto chase...I dunno... maybe deserved better development.

Our Urich and DD scene read well. Was also nicely drawn. Don't know why Urich would say something silly like the old Daredevil "would've been there to stop this from ever happening". I mean, DD is DD, not the Watcher. But again, the reporter must certainly have been upset. Then, cut to another okay scene. More food. The offices of Nelson and Murdock. Then, the Kingpin scene, which seems to enjoy better inking this time. But (bit of a shock), Cogger wasn't eating anything. Not sure why he burned his hands, but the "Pin is always a great rascal.

So, we'll definitely have to be around for the next ish to see what's on the menu, and see what those brief rememberings have been all about.

Andy Herman
328A Jackson Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96819

SLOW DOWN? Could the bus in "Speed" slow down? No! Why? Because it was rigged to explode! NEED WE SAY MORE?

Anyway, this has been "Chef" Alan Smithee's last issue. To find out who's cooking now, check out the "Next Issue" blurb at the bottom of this page.

Dear Devil's Advocate,

I think you need someone to tell you what to do about getting this once-great comic book back on the right track. Go back to the basics. Get the red suit back. Bring back Matt Murdock alive and well. Return his license to practice law with Foggy Nelson. Get rid of the armored costume. Get rid of Jack Batlin. Do not limit Daredevil to Hell's Kitchen. Do these things, and you can stop the damage before it's too late. I've been reading DAREDEVIL since 1971, and it really pains me to see what's happened to DD since Ann Nocenti left the book.

Marvel can pull this off. After all, you have nearly completed the resurrection of the Kingpin. I am confident that you can restore Matt Murdock (law practice and all), and keep the Kingpin at bay without revealing Murdock as Daredevil's alter ego. Use the supporting cast of Karen Page and Ben Urich, and bring back Deborah Nelson as Foggy's social-climbing wife.

Right now, as it stands, you are close to losing my monthly $1.50. I want something worth reading, with continuity. Heck, I demand it! Right now, myself and the rest of DAREDEVIL's fans are not getting our money's worth.

Larry Peck
11004 Crofton Circle
Chester, VA 23831

Larry ol' pal, issue #345 is *really* gonna mow your lawn. We predict that you will be so happy with the direction we're taking DAREDEVIL in this year that you'll come over and mow OUR lawn! Or at least vacuum our lobby. Maybe you could use a RED DEVIL! Ha ha ha ha ha!

But in the meantime, you'll be happy to know that Ann Nocenti is writing a four-issue limited series that's being painted by John Van Fleet. That series is TYPHOID, and it's coming out in September. Try not to get the pages all sweaty, OK?

NEXT ISSUE: Guest writer Warren "Free Bird" Ellis has DD busting arms, legs and juvenile delinquents. But *why?* Find out when "Recross" hits the stands in thirty days!